

Appln. No. 10/804,209
Docket No. 000242.00171 (8625)/GPP-0004

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-8, 10-22 and 27 are pending in the Application. Claims 15-21 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1-8 and 10-14 are allowed. Claims 22 and 27 stand rejected. Applicant has cancelled Claims 15-22 and 27, leaving Claims 1-8 and 10-14 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

In summary, Applicant herein amends the claims without prejudice to leave only allowed claims pending.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 22 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ingalls (US 2003/0132275, hereinafter Ingalls) in view of Heaps, Jr. et al (US 4,850,506, hereinafter Heaps), Ballard (US 4,226,327, hereinafter Ballard) and Wilson (US 5,261,536, hereinafter Wilson).

Applicant has cancelled Claims 22 and 27, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

By amending and/or canceling one or more claims from further consideration in this application, Applicant is not conceding in this application that any claim prior to amendment and/or cancellation is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and/or cancellations are only for the purpose of facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. In view thereof, Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

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In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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